

REMARKS

I. Objection to the Title

The Title of the application was objected to for not being descriptive. A new Title is submitted herewith.

II. The 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claims 1-2, 5-10, 14-16 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,845,764 issued to Ueda et al. ("UEDA") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,400,848 issued to Gallagher ("GALLAGHER").

Independent claims 1, 9, and 17 have been amended to recite substantially some or all of the limitations of allowable claims 4 or 12. Claims 3 and 12 have been canceled. Claims 10, 11 and 18 have been amended to correct typographical errors.

The Examiner cited UEDA for allegedly disclosing the transforming step in claim 1. UEDA does not disclose or suggest any specific techniques for converting a digital image to a binary image. UEDA discloses an image converting circuit 15 for converting a video image into a binary image but fails to provide any detail as to how such conversion is accomplished. UEDA, col. 3, line 41. In particular, UEDA does not disclose converting a digital image by comparing pixels of the digital image to a luminous threshold whereby a pixel having a value higher than the luminous threshold is assigned a first logical value and assigned a second logical value otherwise.

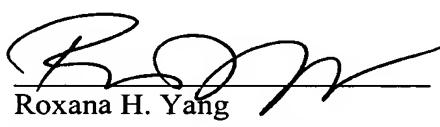
Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would help advance the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



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